

DALLAS

CHESS

Pieces in place for girls to move in on scholarship

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Staff Writer

As pawns fell left and right, the king scanned the field and realized his only hope for survival was to retreat. Unfortunately for his off-white army, his opponent had lured him in to a trap.

"Good game," Courtney Jamison said as she shook her opponent's hand.

Courtney, a 16-year-old Plano native, is one of more than 200 girls taking part in the New Jersey-based Kasparov Chess Foundation's fifth annual All-Girls Chess Championships, being held at the Marriott Dallas/Addison Quorum this weekend. The winner of the under-18 division will be awarded an academic distinction scholarship to the University of Texas at Dallas.

"For the last four years, we've held this in Chicago," said Kasparov president Michael Khodarkovsky. "We moved to Dallas because of UTD's scholarship, so hopefully this relationship will continue in the future."

The six-round tournament began Friday and runs through today, with four rounds played Saturday and two today. Those 12 and younger battled it out in one room, while 14- to 18-year-olds duelled in another. Thir-



Caroline Zhu, 11 of Plano pondered a move at the All-Girls Chess Championships held this weekend for a University of Texas at Dallas scholarship.

SONYA N. HEBERT/
Staff Photographer

quirements, Mr. Khodarkovsky said. Players from Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada made the trip.

"These girls are extremely well-behaved," chief tournament director Francisco Gualupe said. "Plus, we had players come from 23 different states."

Since Courtney began playing chess 10 years ago, she has come close to winning the scholarship several times but has always fallen short. She hopes to change that.

"UTD has the best chess school in the country," she said. "It's really worthwhile that they are offering this."

"While people are playing football, basketball or baseball, I'm playing chess," she said after emerging victorious after two rounds.

The tournament was open to anyone who fit the age re-

quirements, Mr. Khodarkovsky said. Players from Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada made the trip.

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The competition this weekend is tough. Courtney was one of many nationally ranked girls competing.